

Stride-Madison House
429 Spruce Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1073

HABS
PA
51 PHILA
260-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

STRIDE-MADISON HOUSE

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Address: 429 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. [also numbered 115 Spruce Street prior to mid-nineteenth century]

Present Owner and Occupant: Margaret M. Walsh, 429 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Present Use: Private single residence.

Statement of Significance: A Philadelphia row house of the late 18th century where James Madison, Jr., Fourth President of the United States, and his wife resided from November 1795 until June 1796 while he was a member of the House of Representatives.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

	Grantor	GRANTEE
3/5/1791	James Ash, Esq. High Sheriff from estate of Robert Smith	<u>Joseph Stride</u> , painter and glazier for 70 pounds (Bk C 202 C. P.) 2 adjoining lots marked in a certain plan of the Div of the estate of Rbt Smith No 29 (429 Spruce) and No 30 (431 Spruce) NO. 29: Frt 19'6" D 102"
4/4/1795	Joseph Stride, painter and glazier above 2 lots with a 3 sty bk Messuage on No 29	<u>James Gamble</u> , mariner for 200 pounds current gold and silver (D 53 6)
7/14/1795	James Gamble, mariner	<u>John Swanwick</u> , merchant for 300 pounds (D 47 257)

8/1/1796	John Swanwick, merchant	<u>Francis Breuil</u> , gentleman for 300 pounds (D 59 98)
4/24/1806	Francis Breuil, merchant 2 3 sty bk mess: 429 and 431 Spruce St. plus another 3 story mess--433 Spruce	<u>Godfrey Haga</u> , merchant <u>John Boller</u> , merchant for \$12,000 (EF 23 306)
9/1/1806	Godfrey Haga, merchant Hannah h/w John Boller, merchant Catherine h/w above 3 mess.	<u>John W. Foussatt</u> , merchant for \$14,000 (EF 25 163)
7/3/1812	John W. Foussatt, merchant by Attny John B. Foussatt above 3 bk mess.	<u>John Dubarry</u> , merchant for \$12,000 (IC 19 471)
11/9/1812	John Dubarry, merchant Sophia h/w above 3 bk mess.	<u>John B. Foussatt</u> , merchant for \$12,000 (IC 26 155)
11/10/1812	Henry Pratt, gentleman Christopher Marshall, gentleman the right of privilege of strip of ground Frt N & S 4-1/2" D 58-1/2'	<u>John B. Foussatt</u> , merchant for \$66.47 to H. Pratt for \$133.33 to C. Marshall (IC 26 165)
6/27/1814	John B. Foussatt, merchant 3 lots and 3 bk mess. (429, 431, and 433 Spruce)	<u>John Dubarry</u> , merchant for \$5000 mort monies plus \$7000 (IC 29 744)
2/27/1817	John Dubarry, merchant Sophia h/w above 3 bk mess	<u>William Miller</u> , merchant for \$5000 mort debt plus \$9100 (MR 16 198)

4/16/1824	John Douglass, Esq. High Sheriff from William Miller 429 Spruce St prems	<u>John Moss</u> , gentleman for \$1000 and subject to balance of \$3000 of \$5000 mort debt (D 267 C.P.)
10/24/1835	John Moss, gentleman Rebecca h/w above prems	<u>George H. Burgin</u> , M.D. for \$5500 (AM 70 200)
3/13/1871	Est of George H. Burgin	<u>Marianne Burgin</u> *
5/16/1890	Marianne B. Woodward, formerly a widow	<u>John Garitee</u> *
7/17/1910	William D. Garitee ex of will of John Garitee	<u>Harry Briskman</u> *
6/19/1916	Harry Briskman Dora h/w	<u>Morris Feitelson</u> <u>William O. Feitelson</u> *
1/16/1934	William O. Feitelson ex for Anna Feitelson	<u>William O. Feitelson</u> *
6/23/59	William O. Feitelson	<u>Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority by Condemnation</u>
10/17/62	Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority	<u>Margaret M. Walsh</u>

* Information obtained from record of transfer, Registry Unit,
Department of Records, plan 2 S 7, lot 16.

2. Date of erection: c. 1791.
3. Architect, builder: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: The Philadelphia
Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss
by Fire, policy #5243 (survey destroyed) dated June
14, 1837:

"George H. Burgin, a house situate [sic] on the North
side of Spruce Street between 4th & 5th Streets, being
18 1/2 ft. front, 34 ft deep, Piazza 8 by 10 ft 3 storys
high, sitting room 13 by 17 ft. 2 storys high, kitchen
12 by 13 ft. one story high. A shop back of the above
18 1/2 by 15 ft. 2 1/2 storys high, with liberty of any
one extra risk.

Edw. Penington"

The front portion of the house probably dated from c. 1791. Joseph Strides' tax assessments for 1789 and 1791 mention the tax assessment in 1793 for two dwellings and lots. . . is 800 pounds. Whether this reflects the building of the front portion of 429 Spruce Street or of 431 Spruce Street, improvements to the existing structures, or merely increased evaluation is not certain. John Swanwick in a letter to James Madison, Jr. describes the house in June 1795 as ". . . a Neat & good Brick three Story House with two Rooms & a kitchen on a Floor good Yard Coach House & Stables behind & not far distant from Congress Hall. . . ." The additions of a two-story piazza, a back portion with sitting room, etc. probably date from the early part of the 19th century.

5. Notes on alterations and additions: Before renovation in 1962, the structure had been used in the early 20th century for commercial purposes, such as "Hickey's Oyster and Chop House" (with a glass store front) and "M. Feitelson & Sons" (cotton and woolen rag storehouse from 1916 to 1939). A major fire gutted the interior in 1917 and double shop doors were added during this period. The rear portion of the house was removed in 1961 and the present floor plan evolved to incorporate modern conveniences.
6. Important old views: Photograph of 429 Spruce Street, showing half of 427 Spruce Street and all of the facade of 431 Spruce Street with sign over shop front at 429-- "Hickey's Oyster and Chop House" (undated), Life and Letters of Dolly Madison, page 53.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Following is a brief history prepared by Independence National Historical Park:
- "From November 1795 until June 1796 James and Dolley Madison resided at No. 429 Spruce Street. During this period Madison, a member of the House of Representatives which held its sessions in Congress Hall, was 'the opposition leader.'"

He served as a representative from the state of Virginia from 1789 to 1797.

"In the fall of 1794 James Madison married Dolley Payne Todd, a widow, of Philadelphia. Two months later the Madisons returned from Virginia to the federal capital (Philadelphia) for the second session of the Third Congress. At that time they rented a dwelling which James Monroe had lived in during the previous session of Congress. (The location of this structure is not known). When Congress adjourned in March 1795, the Madisons again departed for Virginia.

"Well in advance of their return for the Fourth Congress in November of that year, John Swanwick, a Philadelphia merchant and also a member of the House, acting on Madison's behalf leased 429 Spruce Street for one year. They occupied the premises until June of the following year."

C. Sources of Information

Clark, Allen C. Life and Letters of Dolly Madison. Washington, D.C.: W. F. Roberts Company, 1914. p. 53.

The Philadelphia Directory. 1791 & 1793.

Swanwick, John. Papers of John Swanwick to James Madison, Jr., June 14 - July 26, 1795. Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (See Supplemental Material-- Part IE).

Stephens, Thomas. Stephens' Philadelphia Directory for 1796. Philadelphia: Thomas Stephens, 1796 (?).

Tax and Assessment Books, Philadelphia, Dock Ward, 1789, 1791, 1793-94, 1796, 1800-01 [Tax entries for Captain (James) Gamble, Joseph Stride, John Swanwick]. Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Dolly Madison Collection, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., 13 volumes.

James Madison Papers, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.

E. Supplemental Material

Letter of John Swanwick to James Madison, Jr., John Swanwick Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:

Swanwick Jr.
Philad.^a June 14, 1795

Dear Sir

I have Received your very esteemed favour of the 7th Inst and have in consequence immediately applied to the M^r James Gamble the Proprietor of the House in Spruce Street which I had in View to take for you & who very kindly had Reserved it at my Request. I have Just been with him to View it -- it is a Neat & good Brick three Story House with two Rooms and a Kitchen on a Floor good Yard Coach House & Stables behind and not far distant from Congress Hall being in Spruce Street between 4 & 5 Streets next door's Where M^r Anthony Butler formerly lived -- M^r Gamble agrees to paint Paper Whitewash

& clean it so as to make it perfectly fit for a tenant & he consents that the Rent of £200 a Year Shall Commence only from the first of August next -- to December there are it is time four Months -- but it is profitble I may be able to find a Tenant for the intermediate time but if not I really do not know how you can do better than to secure this House at a time when Rents are every where Rapidly advancing and Houses in general so Scarce as to be very difficult to be procured -- hearing daily complaints on the Score which will probably encrease in proportion as the Winter draws nearer -- & the Crowds flock more towards the Metropolis -- Mr Gamble is good enough to say he will keep for me the House Still untill I have your Answer altho he could directly Rent it to others on the same terms he asks from me -- You will therefore be good enough to let me know your determination early as may be----

.

Hoping soon to have the pleasure again to hear from you I Remain
with much Esteem

Your Sincere Friend

&hble Ser

JSwanwick

James Madison Jun^r Esq.

Orange Court House

Virginia

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: An attractive example of a restored and renovated Philadelphia row house of the Federal Period.
2. Condition of fabric: Good; completely renovated interior and rear portion, partially restored front facade.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Number of stories, bays, over-all dimensions, layout: Three-and-half stories plus basement in front portion; three-bay front; main section 17'-7" wide x 32'-2 1/2" deep; rectangular shape.

2. Foundations: Large rubblestone set in mortar, now white-washed.
3. Wall construction: Red brick, Flemish bond; two separate single row brick string courses between second and third floor windows. First floor front wall new construction in brick; rear brick wall new construction.
4. Bulkheads: A new bulkhead replaces old one indicated by opening in south basement wall.
5. Chimneys: Brick chimney foundation on west wall basement (front) indicates former fireplaces above.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: New doorways and doors throughout.
 - b. Windows: New sash throughout. Old wooden window frames in second, third and attic (dormer) floors, front.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof; new roof surface and roof boards, old rafters.
 - b. Cornice: New cornice.
 - c. Dormers: One front dormer with twelve-over-six-light, double-hung wooden sash (semicircular window head); one rear dormer, six-over-six-light, double-hung wooden sash.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The interior was gutted by a major fire in 1917. New Floor plans throughout have been incorporated by the present owner.
2. Stairways: New stairways throughout.
3. Flooring: New flooring throughout--several old floor joists (4" wide, exposed) used under new first floor along with new floor joist.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: New walls and ceilings throughout.
5. Doorways and doors: New doorways and doors throughout.

6. Trim: New woodwork and mantels* based on samples from house before renovation. A wooden mantel with gougework and human grotesques with a Pennsylvania marble surround to the opening is located in first floor rear west wall.
7. Hardware: New hardware throughout.
8. Lighting: New electric fixtures throughout.
9. Heating: Hot air heating throughout.

D. Site

1. Orientation: One of a series of row houses on the north side of Spruce Street (which runs east-west). Street sidewalk contiguous with front wall of house.
2. Landscaping, enclosures: New garden to the rear enclosed in garden wall which extends to Marshall's Court.

*NOTE: "Marble came from James Emmot Caldwell House, corner of Morris and Lafayette Roads, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania (built c. 1900, demolished 1960)" according to present owner.

Prepared by William B. Bassett,
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
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